

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5970

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFO RE CHARGE THAT TORTURE INSTRUMENTS
"MADE IN USA"

1. CORRIERE DELLA SERA FEBRUARY 24 CARRIED REPORT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN ITALY ANNOUNCING MONTH-LONG FOCUS ON "TORTURE AND REPRESSION IN URUGUAY." CONFERENCE SPEAKER REPORTEDLY CHARGED THAT URUGUAY HAS ON PERCENTAGE BASIS LARGEST NUMBER POLITICAL PRISONERS LATIN AMERICA, AND THAT TORTURE CARRIED OUT ON MASSIVE BASIS USING "THE MOST MODERN MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT MADE BY AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH SPECIALIZE IN THEIR MANUFACTURE." ARTICLE REPORTS FURTHER THAT NAZIS DEVELOPED TORTURE USING HUNGER, THIRST, BEATINGS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES, BUT THAT MODERN TECHNOLOGY PERMITS "REFINED EXECUTIONS," SOMETIMES BY MACHINES MANUFACTURED "LEGALLY" IN THE US. CITED AS EXAMPLES WERE THE "CAVALLETTO," A POLE WITH ONE SHARPENED EDGE ON WHICH THE VICTIM SITS HORSEBACK FASHION WHILE IT IS MOVED BACK AND FORTH; THE "PARROT'S PERCH," FROM WHICH THE VICTIM IS SUPENDED; AND THE "DRY SUBMARINE," A SUFFOCATOR.

2. POST REQUESTS AGENCY INITIATE INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THESE ALLEGATIONS AND FURNISH MATERIAL TO REBUT CHARGES IF AVAILABLE. SPECIFICALLY HELPFUL WOULD BE CITATIONS SHOWING THAT MANUFACTURE OF SUCH INSTRUMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION ABROAD CON-

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TRARY TO OUR LAWS; THAT, AFTER DUE INVESTIGATION NO EVIDENCE

EXISTS TO SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATIONS, ETC.

3. POST EMPHASIZES THAT ARTICLE IN RESPECTED NEWSPAPER LIKE
CORRIERE AND BASED ON CHARGES FROM WELL-KNOWN AMNESTY INTER-
NATIONAL ESCALATES CREDIBILITY AND REACH OF FREQUENT AND SEN-
SATIONALIZED CHARGES OF TORTURE CARRIED OUT BY CIA, ETC.,
WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF RECENT PRESS ARTICLES AND FEATURE
FILM "FACCIA DI SPIA." AMERSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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